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REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-4 and 6-32 are pending, of which claims 1, 6, 9, 16, 22, 25-29, and 31 are independent.

The claims are amended to address the issues noted on page 2 of the Office Action, thereby obviating the objections to claims 1-5, 16, and 18. In addition, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 5, which is cancelled.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 3 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

The phrase "can be" in claim 3 is similar to the phrase "adapted to be," which has been held to comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. See *In re Venezia*, 530 F.2d 956, 189 U.S.P.Q. 149 (C.C.P.A. 1976).

Applicant also cannot agree that the phrase "at least some of," as recited in claim 11, fails to comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The phrase "at least some of" plainly means that all or fewer than all of the connector rows include copper data cable connector rows and/or optical fiber connector rows. The purpose of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is to enable a manufacturer or prospective manufacturer to determine if the product it is making or is planning to make will infringe a claim of a patent. Clearly, such a manufacturer or prospective manufacturer would be able to

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determine if the product it is making or is going to make has connector rows, at least some of which are copper data cable and/or optical fiber connector rows. If this rejection is maintained, the Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate more specifically why "at least some of" in claim 11 does not comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 16-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Simonson et al. (U.S. 2004/0035983), as well as the rejection of claims 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Simonson. The Examiner has acknowledged Applicant's claim of foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document, which being in the English language, requires no translation to perfect Applicant's claim of priority. Applicant hereby asserts the priority date of July 31, 2002, which predates the Simonson filing date of August 26, 2002. Based on the foregoing, the rejections of claims 16-24 and 28-30 are overcome.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Zetena (U.S. 5,316,244).

While not acquiescing to any ground of rejection, but to expedite prosecution, independent claim 1 is amended to recite an underfloor cable junction unit for installation beneath a raised floor having a combination of elements, including lateral sides, the

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lateral sides or at least a major part of the lateral sides being open for enabling cooling air to flow therethrough and thereby form part of a cooling air supply duct while the cable junction unit is installed in the duct.

Zetena does not disclose a cable junction unit having the claimed combination of features, including lateral sides that are open for enabling cooling air to flow therethrough and thereby form part of a cooling air supply duct while the cable junction unit is installed in the duct. Zetena merely discloses a raceway carrying fiber optic cables 3. The raceway takes the form of a channel including base 7 and sidewalls 9 with flanges at the tops of the sidewalls. The raceway appears to extend a substantial distance beneath the floor in the embodiment shown in FIG. 1. In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention, Zetena does not disclose that the raceway forms part of a cooling air supply duct while the raceway is installed in such a duct, nor do Applicants see how such a requirement can be inherent in Zetena.

For at least this reason, independent claim 1 is allowable over Zetena. Claims 2 and 3 are also allowable over Zetena due to their dependence on allowable claim 1, as well as for the additional limitations provided by these claims. For example, claim 3 requires the junction unit to be dimensioned such that it can be lowered through a module opening present when a module panel of a discrete

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modular raised floor is removed. No such structural limitation is disclosed by, or inherent in, Zetena. For this additional reason, claim 3 is not anticipated by Zetena.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Feeney (U.S. 5,467,609). Contrary to the assertion in the Office Action, Feeney's computers 12 are not connected to permanent data cables 256. Rather, Feeney's cable 256 is a power cable, not a data cable. See column 10, lines 12-16. A proper anticipation rejection requires every claimed feature to be included in a single reference, a criterion Feeney fails to meet. Consequently, the rejection of claim 25 as being anticipated by Feeney must be withdrawn.

Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 4, 6-15, 15, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zetena.

Amended claim 4 distinguishes over Zetena at least by requiring at least one of the faces of the junction unit to have open slits between the rows of connectors to facilitate the passage of cooling air through the junction unit from face to face. Clearly, Zetena does not disclose such a limitation.

Original independent claim 6 distinguished over Zetena by requiring open slits to be provided in at least one of the faces that has rows of connectors arranged on at least two levels, one above the other, the open slits facilitating the passage of cooling air through

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the junction unit from face to face. The Office Action fails to discuss the foregoing limitation, which is nowhere to found in Zetena. As amended, claim 6 more specifically indicates that the open slits form part of the cooling air supply duct while the cable junction is installed in the duct. This limitation is also not found in Zetena. Therefore, claim 6 is allowable over Zetena.

Claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 6 and are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above. In addition, amended claim 7 further distinguishes over Zetena by requiring the top side, or at least a major part thereof, to be open to enable the passage of cooling air through the top side and thereby form part of the cooling air supply duct while the cable junction unit is installed in the duct. Amended claim 8 further distinguishes over Zetena by requiring the lateral sides, at least a part thereof, to be open and thereby form part of the cooling air supply duct while the cable junction unit is installed in the duct. There is no disclosure in Zetena of the foregoing features of amended claims 7 and 8.

Independent claim 9 is directed to an underfloor cable junction unit for installation in a raised-floor system having a combination of elements, including sliding data connector units arranged on at least two levels in the junction level, one above the other. The Office Action contends it would have been obvious to arrange connectors 54, shown in FIGS. 7 and 8 of Zetena, on at least two

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levels on the raceway, one above the other. However, Zetena's strain reliever 54 is such that it cannot be arranged on two levels on the raceway, one above another. Strain reliever 54 is mounted on lip 11 or 21 of channel member 5 or telescoping member 15. Protective grommet 58 is forced into longitudinally disposed slots 57. It is not seen how strain reliever 54 can be mounted to meet the requirements of Applicant's independent claim 9. If the rejection of claim 9 as being obvious over Zetena is maintained, the Examiner is courteously requested to indicate how one of ordinary skill in the art would have obviously modify strain reliever 54 of Zetena to meet the requirements of claim 9.

Claims 10-13 and 15 depend directly or indirectly from claim 9 and are allowable for the same reasons, as well as for the additional limitations provided by these claims. For example, claim 12 further distinguishes over Zetena by requiring optical fiber connector rows with a connector type for enabling pre-fabricated optical break-out cables with pre-installed cable connectors to be plugged-in at a permanent-cable connection side of the junction connectors, without using a splice box. This limitation is not discussed in the Office Action, nor do Applicants see how Zetena discloses it.

Claim 14 further distinguishes over Zetena by requiring the slide-in data connector units to be arranged such that permanent cable connections are at an inner side of the data connectors facing

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the inside of the junction unit and plug-in patch cable data connections are provided at an outward-facing side of the data connectors. While the Office Action states that Zetena's adjusting locking clips 25 are the connectors, locking clips 25 are mechanical connectors, not data connectors.

Claim 15 further distinguishes over Zetena by requiring the slide-in data connector units to have rows of connectors that are provided with enclosures. As discussed above, it is not obvious to have modified strain relievers 54 of Zetena to accommodate rows of connectors.

Amended independent claim 26 indicates that the raised floor includes air outlets for supplying cooling air to the computers, the space beneath the raised floor being arranged as a cooling air supply duct for the computers. No such arrangement is disclosed in Zetena. In addition, claim 26 requires rows of connectors arranged on at least two levels, one above the other, at at least one of the opposite bases of the junction unit. At least one of the spaces between the rows of connectors facilitates the passage of cooling air through the junction unit from face to face. Claim 26 is not obvious, *inter alia*, because the use of at least two rows in Zetena is not obvious, as discussed previously. In addition, Zetena does not disclose open slits between the row of connectors to facilitate the passage of cooling air through the junction unit from face to

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face. The Office Action does not attempt to make a *prima facie* case for obviousness with regard to the latter limitation. Consequently, claim 26 is clearly patentable over Zetena.

Claim 27 requires slide-in connector units to be arranged on at least two levels in a cable junction unit by which computers are connected to permanent data cables running under a raised floor. The slide-in connector units are required to be one above the other. As discussed previously, Zetena does not make the immediately preceding limitation obvious.

For at least these reasons, claims 4, 6-15, 26, and 27 are patentable over Zetena.

Claims 31 and 32 are added to provide Applicants with the protection to which they are deemed entitled. Independent claim 31 defines a computer center in combination with details of Applicant's underfloor cable junction units. Claim 32 depends from claim 31 and recites that each of the face parts includes a row of second data connectors, the second data connectors having longitudinal axes extending parallel to the sidebars for connection to data cables having ends positioned at opposite sides of the second data connectors along the longitudinal axes. None of the art of record discloses or suggests a computer center having the structural features of claims 31 and 32.

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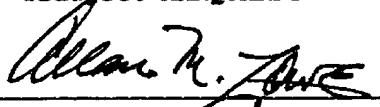
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested and deemed in order.

Applicant hereby requests a two-month extension of time in which to file a response to the Office Action of November 2, 2004. Authorization for payment of the two-month extension fee of \$450 is attached. If in error, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or to charge any required fees not otherwise provided for to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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